



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact: Dutch Meier

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Cell: (509) 520-1468

Corps, law enforcement, tribes examine remains discovery

Umatilla, Ore., -- Law enforcement officials from Oregon, Native American leaders and key staff members of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are investigating the discovery of apparently human remains at a location near McNary Dam here.

A tribal official from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation notified the Walla Walla District of the find on Tuesday, Jan.21. Corps officials have been working since that time with various agencies and officials to protect the scene which is consistent with Native American sites in the region. Similar finds are not uncommon to Corps properties. The age of the site and remains on it are not yet known but Lewis and Clark are reported to have noted cultural sites throughout the area during their historic expedition.

"The Corps in the region had numerous similar discoveries in the past and we expect that it will happen again in the Walla Walla District area of responsibility," said Lt. Col. Edward J. Kertis, Jr., Walla Walla District commander. "We work closely on a government-to-government relationship with tribes at all times."

Several federal laws could apply to this site and so preliminary information about the discovery is somewhat limited until investigators have completed more of their work and determined the next appropriate steps and actions. Those laws include the: Native

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468

Web site: www.nww.usace.army.mil E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil

American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); and/or, Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

-30-

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